

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Food Supply

1. The supply of food at Gorodomlya Island was generally low. Butter, meat, eggs, and sugar were usually scarce. Meat and eggs were usually purchased in an open market place in the nearby city of Ostashkov. The kinds of meat available were beef, pork, and veal. The Soviets did not like liver and this was regularly available to the Germans. The meat-vendors never sold special cuts of meat, but simply hacked off a piece of meat from the carcass, according to the quantity desired by the purchaser. Fish was caught by the native Soviet inhabitants and sold at the house door to the institute community. Fish available in the market were herring, perch, and tench.
2. The usual meal of the inhabitants consisted of bread, cabbage, soup and tea. The bread was either black, mixed black and white, or, rarely, white. The bread contained a high percentage of water. Vodka was commonly drunk by the Soviets, who always had a supply available.
3. Milk was generally supplied in large cans to the community. Two Germans then sold the milk to the other German people. The milk, and especially the cream, was excellent, but it was not pasteurized. Sunflower seed oil was the most common cooking fat.
4. The food stores were not clean, except in the city of Moscow, where a high standard was maintained. On the island and in the city of Ostashkov, the

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standard of cleanliness maintained by police inspection was low. Food inspection laws existed and presumably were enforced. Only meat which bore a stamp could be sold. I know no further details about food quality control. I recall that refrigeration units were being installed in the food store at the time of my departure from the island. Formerly food cooling was not available.

Housing

5. Housing facilities on the island were crowded. Usually four people were assigned to one room. However those people who had the more important jobs were sometimes given more space, for example, one room for two people. The space shortage was never alleviated. Houses were generally quite clean, except for the insects. No screens were supplied, and the people sometimes used paper screens.

Diseases

6. I do not have detailed knowledge on this subject, nor am I qualified to describe disease conditions. I recall that malaria, tuberculosis, and "jaundice" were occasionally reported. I know of no dysentery outbreak. I never heard of animal diseases, in particular anthrax, brucellosis, tuberculosis, or rabies, nor can I recall any animal diseases having been discussed. A scarlet fever epidemic occurred sometime during my stay. Worm parasite infestation was a very common complaint.

Medical Care

7. The community had a polyclinic located on the island. This polyclinic was in a wooden building, 18 x 10 m. It had two conference rooms, a dental room, a supply room, and rooms for eight or ten beds. An X-ray instrument was available for use in the polyclinic. In general this building was kept in a clean condition. 25X1

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10. In addition to the polyclinic there was a kindergarten which had three or four rooms. Children were left here by their working parents during the day. The kindergarten had about twelve beds for use by the children. In general the food given to the children here was of good quality, and it was generally believed that the kindergarten was well run.

11. The island had no special hospital for communicable diseases, and such cases would normally be referred to Ostashkov where isolation was possible.

12. I have never heard of a sanitary epidemiological station, nor of public health districts under their Russian or German-language equivalent names. I recall hearing that there were feldscher-type physicians working in Ostashkov.

13. I can give no information on public health activities. Once or twice a year the employees at the factory were requested to have their blood tested; this was done by taking a drop of blood from the finger. I can give no further

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details about this type of test. Once the workers received an injection in the upper back, presumably against malaria. I myself was never immunized because I deliberately avoided the order to appear before the immunizing personnel.

14. Workers in the institute had no real authority to improve safety conditions, even through workers' representatives. It was my impression that the authorities did not give much attention to the welfare of the workers, nor their safety, but this is only a general opinion. I know that extra rations were authorized for workers in dangerous jobs.

Medical Supplies

15. I have no knowledge of the availability of medical supplies in the area. I know that Ostashkov had some penicillin, and that drugs were in short supply, but I cannot give more details.

16. I believe a blood donor service existed and the blood tests taken at the Institute may have been designed for the purpose of registering possible donors.

BW

17. I have no knowledge of BW activities, nor of defense activities in this field in the area around Ostashkov.

Insects and Animals

18. The area was plagued with an unbelievable number of bugs and mosquitoes. Spiders were also very common. This insect problem was probably heightened by the fact that we lived in a wild forest region, surrounded by trees. Nothing was done, in an organized manner, to get rid of the insect pests. I recall that spraying was done once or twice a year, and I believe DDT was available for this spraying process, but it was ineffective. I used vinegar, which was somewhat helpful in getting rid of the pests. Kerosene was also available but was not of much use.

19. I recall one occasion when a person was bitten by a snake which was poisonous, but I cannot give any description of the snake. The island had very many mice, but few rats. The community maintained many cats. The region had many wolves and in the cold weather these animals were seen on the island. The inhabitants were warned of the possibility of attacks by wolves on the journey to Peski. Bears could sometimes be seen in the distance. Elk were commonly seen, and an ordinance prohibited the shooting of the elk in order to preserve these animals. Many stray dogs lived in the area, but they were of no particular breed. I know of no poisonous or dangerous fish in the lake.

Plants

20. I know of no poisonous or allergenic plants. Some poisonous mushrooms were growing in the area, but I know of no cases of mushroom poisoning.

Water Supply

21. The water supply for the inhabitants of Gorodomlya Island was from a small lake on the island. A water tower was located next to the power station, but I do not know whether this tower supplied water only to the power station or to the community as well. It was commonly believed that a filter station was to be installed, but at the time of my departure this had not yet been done. The water was dirty in summer and contained worms and small fish.

22. All of the houses in the community were supplied by pipes from the water system, and this was obtained by pumps from the pond. I do not believe wells were used. No chemical treatment of the water was carried on to my knowledge, and the water was boiled before use, although not everyone

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did so. The supply was adequate for the people's needs, even during the summer months.

23. A small community of original inhabitants of the island, separated from the institute community by the small lake referred to above, obtained their water from wells.

Waste Disposal

24. The institute houses had water closets which discharged into a disposal system, I do not know how the wastes were eventually removed, but recall that a settling basin was located next to the testing-office of the institute. It is possible that the waste sewage was eventually discharged into the small lake from which the drinking water was obtained, but I am uncertain about this point. I do recall that waste water from diesel motors on the island was discharged into the small lake. All houses in the community were served by the public disposal system. The native village across the small lake had outdoor latrines.

25. I do not recall that the island had a special garbage collection organization, and the method of disposal of garbage was not known to me. I do not know whether fecal wastes were used as fertilizer in the area.

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